

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 00837 070557Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PM-05 NSC-05
SP-02 SS-15 /050 W

-----118432 070559Z /14

R 070411Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9469
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 0837

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, PERP, LA, VM
SUBJECT: REPORTED LAO BUS AMBUSH BY VIETNAMESE

1. A NEUTRALIST THIRD WORLD DIPLOMATIC SOURCE TOLD
US AUGUST 5 THAT "ABOUT A MONTH AGO" A LUANG
PROBANG-VIENTIANE BUS HAD BEEN AMBUSHED ON THE HIGH-
WAY BETWEEN THE TWO CITIES BY VIETNAMESE SOLDIERS.
ELEVEN WOMEN HAD BEEN KILLED IN THE ATTACK, PLUS ONE
SURVIVOR WHO HAD PRETENDED TO BE DEAD BUT WHO LIVED TO TELL
OF THE INCIDENT. THE SURVIVOR HAD SAID THAT THE VIET-
NAMESE SOLDIERS HAD TOLD THEIR VICTIMS THAT THEY HAD
ATTACKED THE BUS BECAUSE THEY WERE STARVING AND NEEDED
MONEY TO BUY RICE.

2. COMMENT: WE HAVE NO WAY OF CONFIRMING THIS REPORT.
ASSUMING THAT THE ATTACK REALLY DID TAKE PLACE AND THAT
IT IS NOT SIMPLY AN ANTI-VIETNAMESE RUMOR, IT COULD
BE THAT THE "VIETNAMESE SOLDIERS" WERE ACTUALLY LAO
BANDITS OR INSURGENTS. THEY MAY HAVE THOUGHT THAT
IN ADDITION TO ITS ECONOMIC PURPOSES, THE AMBUSH COULD
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BE MADE TO SERVE INSURGENT POLITICAL AND PROPAGANDA
ENDS IF THE VICTIMS COULD BE MADE TO BELIEVE THEY HAD
BEEN ATTACKED BY VIETNAMESE. ON THE OTHER HAND, THEY
COULD HAVE BEEN PAVN DESERTERS WHO HAD TURNED TO
BANDITRY. IN ANY EVENT, WE DOUBT THAT THE AMBUSH
TOOK PLACE AS A RESULT OF VIETNAMESE ARMY POLICY OR
ORDERS.

ROBERTS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GROUND VEHICLES, COMBAT OPERATIONS, CASUALTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780890/aaaacxjs.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c9539a67-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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TAGS: MILI, PEPR, LA, VM
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Review Markings:
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